HIS MAJESTIES DECLARATION

To all His

Loving Subjects,

After his late Victory against the Rebels,
On Sunday the 23. of October.

Together with

A RELATION OF

The battell lately fought betweene *Keynton* and *Edge-hill*, by His Majesties Armie, and that of the Rebels.

With other successes of His Majesties Armie happening since.

Charles R.

OUr expresse pleasure is, That this our Declaration be published in all Churches and Chappels within the Kingdome of *England* and Dominion of *Wales*, by the Parsons, Vicars, or Curates of the same.

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B.N.C. F.MADAN OXFORD

His Majesties Declaration to all His loving Subjects, after His late Victory against the Rebels on Sunday the 23. of Octob.

AS We must wholly attribute the preservation of Vs and Our Children in the late bloody Battaile with the Rebels to the mercy and goodnesse of Almighty God, who best knowing the justice of our Cause, and the uprightnesse of our heart, to his service, and to the good and welfare of Our People, would not suffer Vs and this whole Kingdome to be made a prey to those desperate Persons, so We hold it Our duty still to use all possible means to remove that jealousie, and misunderstanding from Our good Subjects, which by the Industry, and subtilty of that *Malignant* Party (which hath brought this mischief and confusion upon the Kingdom) hath been infused into them, and to that purpose (though even those scandals are sufficiently answered by many of Our Declarations and Messages, and by Our late Protestation made in the head of Our Army, which We shall alwayes by the help of God stedfastly and solemnly observe) We shall take notice of those subtile Insinuations by which at this present (according to that observation We can make, and Information We can receive) the endeavour to poyson the hearts and corrupt the Allegiance of such of our good Subjects who cannot so clearely discerne their malice and impostures. First, by urging and pressing that false groundlesse Imputation of Our favouring Popery, and Our imploying many of that Religion now in Our Army. Secondly, by seducing Our good people to believe that this Army raysed and kept for Our necessary defence (and without which in all probability the malice of these men had before this taken Our life from Us) is to fight against & subdue the Parliament, to take away the Privileges thereof, and thereby to root out Parliaments, if either of which were true, We should not have the courage with an Army much greater then Ours, to hope for successe.

For the first, for Our Affection to that Religion, Our continuall [illegible] Our constant profession and [illegible] will satisfie all the world, against which Malice and Treason it selfe, cannot finde the least probable objection, We wish from our heart the zeal and affection of those [illegible] to the true Protestant Religion were as

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as apparent as Ours. For the employing men of that Religion in Our present service in the Army, whosoever considers the hardnesse & straights the malice and fury of these men have driven Us to, their stopping all passages and wayes that neither men or money might come to Us, their declaring all such to be Traitors who shall assist Us, their entertaining men of all Countries, all Religions to serve against Us: would not wonder, if We had been very well contented to have received the service & Assistance of any of Our good Subjects who had Loyalty enough (whatsoever their Religion is) to bring them to our succour. All men know the great number of Papists which serve in their Army, Commanders, and others, the great industry they have used to corrupt the Loyalty and Affection of all Our Subjects of that Religion, the private promises and undertakings they have made to them, that if they would assist them against Us, all the Laws made in their prejudice should be repealed, yet neither the weaknesse of Our own condition, nor the other Arts used against Us, could prevaile with Us to invite those of that Religion to come to Our succour or to recall Our Proclamation which forbad them to do so. And We are confident (though We know of some few whose eminent Abilities in command and conduct, and moderate and unfactious dispositions have moved Us in this great necessity to imploy them in this service) that a far greater number of that Religion is in the Army of the Rebels, than in Our own. And We do assure our good Subjects though we shall alwayes remember the particular services which particular men have or shal in this exigent of Ours performe to Us with that grace and bounty which becomes a just Prince, yet we shall be so far from ever giving the least countenance or encouragement to that Religion, that wee shall alwayes use Our utmost endeavours to suppresse it, by the execution of those good and wholsome Lawes already in force against Papists, and concurring in such further remedies as the care and wisdome of Us and both houses of Parliament shall thinke most necessary for the Advancement of Gods service.

For the second, of our Intention to make Warr upon our Parliament, and so to root out Parliaments. The scandall is so senseless, when our accusation of a few particular Persons for particular crimes notoriously committed, adjudged by the known Lawes of the Land to be Treason, is evident that no man can be moved with it, who doth not believe a dozen or 20. factious, seditious Persons,

to be the high Court of Parliament, which consists of King, Lords, and Commons, and for the priviledges of it, whoever doth not believe that to raise an Army to murther and depose the King, to alter the whole frame of Government and established Lwes of the Land, by extemporary, extravagant Votes and Resolutions of either or both houses, to force and compel the Members to submit to the faction and treason of a few, and to take away the liberty & freedome of consultation from them, to be the priviledges of Parliament, must confesse that the Army now raised by Us is no lesse for the Vindication and preservation of Parliaments then for our own necessary defence. We have often said, and We still say, that we beleive many inconveniencies have grown upon this Kingdom by the too long intermission of Parliaments, that Parliaments are the onely necessary Soveraign remedies for the growing mischiefs which time and accidents have and will alwayes beget in this Kingdome, that without Parliaments the happinesse cannot be lasting to King or people; We have prepared for the frequent assembling of Parliaments, and will al wayes be as careful of their just Priviledges, as of our Life, Honour or Interest, but that those priviledges should extend so far as hath been lately declared, that it should not be lawfull for Us to apprehend the Lord St. *Iohn*, Cap. *Windgat*, or Cap. *Walton*, when they came to destroy Us, because they were members of Parliament, without the consent of that House of which they were members, is so ridiculous, that there need no more to be said in this Argument then the giving these instances. In a word, as who ever knowes in what danger our Person was in on Sunday the 23 of *October*, can never beleive that the Army which gave Us Battle was raised for Our defence, and preservation; so when they consider how much the Liberty of the Subject is invaded by their Rapine and Imprisoning; and that foure parts at the least of five of the Members of both Houses are by violence driven from being present in that Councell, that the Book of Common prayer is rejected, and no countenance given but to Anabaptists and Brownists, they will easily find the pretences of care of the Protestant Religion, the liberty of the Subject, and of the priviledge of Parliament to be as vain and pretended, as those which refer to the safety of our person, and preservation of our posterity.

We cannot omit the great pains and endeavours these great pretenders to peace and Charity have taken, to raise an implacable malice

lice and hatred between the Gentry and Commonalty of the Kingdome, by rendring all Persons of Honour, Courage, and Reputation odious to the Common people, under the style of Cavaliers, insomuch as the High-wayes and Villages have not been safe for Gentlemen to passe through without violence or Affronts, and by infusing into them that there was an intention by the Commission of Array to take away a part of their Estates from them, a scandall so senseless and impossible, that the contrivers of it well known they might with equall Ingenuity have charged Vs with a purpose of introducing Turcisme or Judisme among them, and We hope when our good Subjects have well weighed the continuall practises of these men to reject all offers of Treaty, and to suppresse truth, and to mislead them by bold and monstrous falsehoods, they will not think such Arts and wayes to lead to peace and Unity. And We desire our good Subjects, of all Conditions to beleive that We hold our Self bound no lesse to defend and protect the meanest of our People (who are born equally free, and to whom the Law of the Land is an equall Inheritance) then the greatest Subject, and that as the wealth and strength of this Kingdome consists in the number and happinesse of our People, which is made up of men of all Conditions, so we shall to the utmost of our power endeavour without distinction to give every one of them that Iustice and Protection which is due to them, and wee doe exhort them all to that charitable and brotherly Affection one towards another, that they may be reconciled in a just duty and Loyalty to Us, which may enable Us for that Protection.

To conclude, we would have all the world know, that we shall never forget the Protestations and Vowes we have made to Almighty God in our severall Declarations and Messages to both our Houses of Parliament. And we are too much a Christian to believe that we can breake those promises, and avoyd the Justice of Heaven.

FINIS.

A relation of the Battail fought between *Keynton* and *Edgehill*, by His Majesties Army and that of the Rebels.

Upon Saterday the 23. of Octob. 1642. *His Majesty had given order for the summoning of* Banbury, *and in case of refusall the besieging of it with* 4000. *Foot, and four piece of Canon, but that evening intelligence was brought, that the Rebels had a resolution to relieve it; but it was not so certain as to make any change of the former Orders, yet upon Sunday at three in the morning there came certain intelligence that the whole Army of the Rebels were marching with all expedition thither, and were quartered at* Keynton, 3. *miles from* Edgehill, *whereupon the King gave present order for all his Army both Horse and Foot to march with all expedition to* Edgehill, *being foure miles distant from his neerest quarter, to which Rendevouz the Kings Horse came between ten and eleven a clock in the morning, & the Van of the Foot came within an houre after, but the Rere (which hapned at that time to be the Lord Lieutenant Generals Regiment) with the Artillery, came not in two houres after. As soone as we came to the top of* Edgehill *which is upon* Keynton, *we saw the Rebels Army drawing out, and setting themselves in Battalia, whereupon the Kings Horse went down the hill and set themselves in order, the Foot likewise having command to come down the hill and doe the like; but before that was done, and the Kings Artillery come, it was past two a the afternoon.*

It being perceived that the Rebels had placed some Musquetiers under a hedge that crost the field, where the encounter was to be made, that flanked upon our left wing, there were some of the Kings Dragoniers sent to beat them off, which they very well performed, whereupon our whole Army advanced in very good order, the Ordnance of both sides playing very fast, but that of the Rebels began first. The charge began between the two wings of Horse, those of the Rebels not standing our charge, a quarter of an houre before they fled, our men having the execution of them for three miles together, the Horse of both our wings routing their Foot as well as their Horse, and two whole Regiments of their Foot were absolutely cut off by those of our left wing, besides those put into disorder by our right. Whiles this was doing, the bodies of the Foot met the Kings Regiment of Guard, and the Earle of Lindsies *giving the first charge, which was very well disputed a long time, untill the reserve of the Rebels Horse (which had never been charged) charged our Foot upon the flank, which our foot resisted a good while, but at length not being seconded by our reserve of Horse, which contrary to order, thinking the day was surely won, had followed the execution of the Rebels so far, that they could not*

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came in time to relieve them, they were put in some disorder, in which the Kings Standard (the Standard bearer being slain) and the Lo: Willoughby seeking to relieve his Father, who fell being shot in the leg, was together with his Father made Prisoner: but the Standard was soone relieved by the Lieutenant of the Lord John Stewards Troop (Captain Smith) being newly returned from the execution of the Rebels. The left side of our Foot being put into disorder, all the rest gave way, yet those of the right hand were never put into disorder, but seeing some of the Canon in danger to be lost, advanced againe and made the place good, the left hand of the Rebels Foot comming on apace to charge them. By this time the right wing of our Horse was returned from chasing of the Rebels, and were in some confusion, because they came from the execution, but seeing our Foot and Canon in some danger to be lost, by reason that the Rebels Horse and Foot (those Horse which had never been charged) advanced in good order to charge, ours made a stand and soon rallied together, having some Dragoniers with them, and so advancing made the Dragoniers give them a Volley or two of shot, which made the Rebels instantly retire. By this time it was grown so dark, that our chief Commanders durst not charge for feare of mistaking friends for foes, (though it was certainly concluded by them all, that if we had had light enough but to have given one charge more, we had totally routed all their Armie. Whereupon both Armies retreated, ours in such order that we not onely brought off our owne Canon, but foure of the Rebels, we retiring to the top of the hill from whence we came, because of the advantage of the place, and theirs to the village where they had been quartered the night before.

The King with the whole body of the Horse, and those of the foot which were not broken, quartered upon and on the side of the hill all night, and in the morning as soone as it was day, drew halfe the body of the Horse into Battalia at the foot of the hill, and the rest of the Horse and the Foot on the top of the hill where the Standard was placed, and having notice that three of the Rebels Canon were left halfe way between us and their Quarter, sent out a body of Horse and drew them off, they not so much as offering to relieve them: so both Armies, facing one another all day, retired at night to their former quarters.

The Rebels in this Battaile lost above 70. Colours of Cornets and Ensigns, we sixteen Ensigns, but not one Cornet, but our Horse relieved not onely the Standard, but divers of our owne Ensignes.

For the slaine of both sides the number is uncertaine, yet it is most certaine that we killed five for one. It is true that their chiefe Officers having fleeter horses then ours, not so many of their Officers of Foot as ours were slain and

taken,

taken Prisoners to our knowledge as yet, but we lost no Officer of Horse excepting the Lord Aubigny.

The next day after the battaile, the E. of Essex finding his Army extreamly weakned and disheartned by the great blow they had received by His Majesties Forces, withdrew himselfe to Warwick Castle, and the same night, the remainder of his Forces went also privately thither much distracted, whereof Prince Rupert having notice, the next morning pursued them, but they were all got into Warwick, or dispersed before he could overtake them: but his highnesse took 25. Waggons and Carriages of the Rebels laden with Ammunition, Medicaments, and other baggage, whereof he brought away part, and fired the rest.

This sudden returning back of the Rebels to Warwick, is not onely a sure argument of the weaknesse of their Armie; but hath exceedingly disheartned all the Countrey which adhered to them, and were before (upon the false rumor that the Kings Forces were defeated) ready to have risen and falne upon His Majesties Forces.

The 26. His Majesty Clarenceux King of Arms sent a Summon to Banbury, which being not thereupon yeelded, His Majesty the next day drew out part of his Army with some Ordnance against the said Town, upon the approach of which the Rebels Forces (being the E. of Peterboroughs Regiment which were in the Towne, to the number of 600.) came out, laid downe their Arms, and asked His Majesties Pardon, and immediately the Town was rendred up: upon which His Majesty sent out some of His principall Officers to discover and bring away all such Arms and Ammunition as were found in the towne, and to take up upon Tickets all woollen cloth, stockins, shooes, and victuals for the accommodation of his souldiers, forbidding all manner of plundring, and permitting onely one Regiment to enter and remaine in the Towne that night.

FINIS.